

**Washington State Department of Transportation  
Aviation Division  
Monthly Update, November 2003**

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***1. Aviation Advisory Committee Study Team recommendations out for comment***

The Aviation Advisory Committee met on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> to review the draft recommendations of the study teams, which were formed to evaluate the effectiveness of the aviation programs in education and air search and rescue. All 15 committee members attended,



including a new representative of the Mayor of Yakima. Discussion was lively and intense during the 4-hour session. Several Study Team members provided comments, including the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on system planning and the Washington Pilots Association (WPA) on air search and rescue. WPA, in particular, expressed concern about protecting the dedicated funding source for search and rescue. WSDOT Aviation is initiating a formal public comment period to solicit input from customers until December 19, 2003. The draft reports can be found at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation). Comments should be directed by email to [AviOutC@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:AviOutC@wsdot.wa.gov), by mail to WSDOT Aviation Division, PO Box 3367, Arlington, WA 98223-3367, or by fax (360) 651-6319.

WSDOT Aviation Director, John Sibold intends to use the recommendations in the development of his 2004 business plan and the division's strategic plan. The highlights of the program reports include developing an aviation education web-based Information Clearinghouse, utilizing regional planning process of MPOs and RTPOs to define Washington's aviation system, and continuing the volunteer program for air search and rescue through the Civil Air Patrol and Washington Air Search and Rescue pilots. Director Sibold will provide an overview of recommendations to the Transportation Commission in December during his annual report on the Aviation Division.

## ***2. Director Sibold appointed to General Aviation Group***

John Sibold, Director of Aviation, was asked to chair the security committee during the National Association of State Aviation Officials' (NASAO) Annual Conference in September. Ann Cherneko, Vice Chair of NASAO, asked Sibold to tackle this responsibility because of Washington State's interest in eliminating Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) in the Puget Sound. Representative Rick Larsen continues to lead the fight to remove unnecessary TFRs in Washington. Sibold has been providing input to Larsen on this issue over the last year and is pleased that his recommendations for a solution have been addressed in pending Congressional action. Together, Rep. Larsen and Sibold hope to encourage Federal Security Agencies to remove the arbitrary boundaries of TFRs.

## ***3. WSDOT Aviation Sponsors Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic***



The Fall Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic was held in Everett November 8-9. A total of 64 flight instructors were present for the two-day clinic held at the Everett Community College's Jackson Center. Marilee Jensen, WSDOT Aviation Executive Assistant, and Fabienne Theberge, WSDOT Aviation Customer Services, welcomed the participants. Hoffman Pilot Center conducted the clinic, which was sponsored by WSDOT Aviation. Flight Instructors are required to renew their Instructor rating every two years and the WSDOT Aviation-sponsored clinics are a popular way to do so. Instructors review all aspects of flight instructing, including regulations,

aerodynamics, airspace, decision-making and error management. The clinics, available only to registered pilots, are free. Currently, Aviation Study Teams are reviewing the costs and benefits associated with sponsoring such clinics and will make recommendations regarding the future of these classes.

#### ***4. It's official – Evergreen Airport submits rezone application***

The owners of the Evergreen Airport in Vancouver, Washington submitted a comprehensive plan amendment to the City of Vancouver to change the airport zoning to mixed use. The airport is presently home to 165 aircraft and supports 68,000 annual operations, according to the airport owner. The loss of the airport is significant, not only to southwest Washington aviators, but to the City of Vancouver since Evergreen Airport generates approximately 130 jobs, \$2.3 million in payroll and \$8.6 million in annual sales output. The City anticipates receiving a project proposal in Spring 2004 for redevelopment of the property.

The sobering effects of the airport's absence will be felt throughout southwest Washington, and WSDOT Aviation will proactively seek solutions for airport capacity in that area. Director Sibold is currently exploring effective options for backfilling the loss of Evergreen.

#### ***5. Scouts clean up at Easton Airport***

Boy Scouts from Lynnwood Troop 327 put the spit back into the shine when it came to a special project they recently completed at the state-owned Easton Airport. Eleven scouts and 10 adults spent the weekend clearing bushes and trees that were visibly obscuring midway markers along both sides of the airport runway. They also used huge amounts of elbow grease applying a new coat of paint to the airport's outdoor toilet facility. While the adults tore down an old metal tower, the scouts made two campsite fire rings.

The project was the brainchild of Scout Master Jim Hatfield, who wanted to provide his scouts an opportunity to complete a project that would be of value to the state and to the community of Easton.

For their hard work, the scouts earned some of bruised knuckles and sore muscles, plus the satisfaction of knowing their efforts are much appreciated by WSDOT Aviation and the pilots who use the airport.

#### ***6. Project of the Month - Stehekin state airport irrigation project moves forward***

What do weeds and irrigation systems have in common with pilots, WSDOT Aviation and the National Parks Service? They all have a role in a project to improve the Stehekin Airport near Lake Chelan. First cleared in the 1930s, the Stehekin Airport is the largest area in the mountainous Stehekin Valley that is maintained as an open space, suitable for landing.

Jim Scott, State Airports Maintenance Manager, is overseeing WSDOT's participation in constructing an irrigation system that will support a new growth of turf on the airport's runway. Non-native plants growing on the airport have been the targets of a spray program, paid for by WSDOT, for years. The National Park Service provided a matching fund grant for a non-native weed control program through a weed control grant that will allow WSDOT Aviation to reseed the airport with a dense native grass to choke out the weeds.



Since about two-thirds of the of the landing strip is very dry and does not retain enough moisture to support the grass establishment, about 2,000 feet of new irrigation pipe is being added to a vintage system already in place to solve the water shortage problem.

About 40 pilots from several organizations volunteered to install the irrigation system. Work started in early October and is about one-half completed with the system assembled and the trench partially filled. The goal for WSDOT Aviation is to complete the first half of the system by the end of November and schedule at least two more work parties at Stehekin State prior to the first snowfall.

The airport's new turf will be ready for use next year and pilots will be able to operate from a smooth runway, free of dust and gravel.

## ***7. Washington State Airports status update***

Due to improved weather-gauging capabilities - and popular demand - WSDOT Aviation was able to keep most of its state-owned airports open for over a month later than usual. However, all good things must come to an end, as Jim Scott, WSDOT Aviation State Airport Maintenance Manager, discovered when inspecting the State airports after the season's first mountain snow. Airports that are now closed for the season include Bandera, Easton, Ranger Creek, Rogersburg, Sullivan Lake, and Tieton. Four airports will close later this month: Avey, Lake Wenatchee, Skykomish and Stehekin. The remaining 6 (Copalis, Little Goose, Lower Granite, Lower Monumental, Methow and Woodland) will remain open all winter unless the snowfall is well above average. WSDOT Aviation intends to continue the trend of keeping State airports open as long as possible, weather permitting.



## **8. Registration non-compliance brings delinquency and penalty notices**

On July 1, 2003, the Washington State Legislature amended the registration requirement to include civil penalties for not complying with pilot, aircraft and mechanic registration requirements. WSDOT Aviation recently merged the current FAA airmen and aircraft

database with the division's new internet-based registration database and found a difference of 5,984 pilots and 1,516 aircraft.

Category	Total in FAA Database	Total FAA records also in WSDOT Database	Total Not Previously Registered in WA
Airmen (Pilots and Mechanics)	14,792	8,808	5,984
Aircraft	8,595	7,079	1,516
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,360</b>	<b>15,967</b>	<b>7,500</b>

The 7,500 potentially non-compliant customers will receive a letter in December requesting confirmation of their active status. Thirty-days following receipt of the confirmation letter, unregistered aviators will receive an additional 30-warning letter with a notice that non-compliance will result in the issuance of civil penalties.

While it is our goal that no pilot or aircraft owner reach the penalty stage, 30-days following the second letter, a penalty letter sent certified mail will be issued notifying the aviator that the **delinquent account will be sent to a collection agency, per RCW 19.16.500** within 10-days if the account remains in arrears. Penalties will be assessed according to the civil penalty provisions as outlined in RCW 47.68 and can run from \$60 for delinquent pilots to \$400 for delinquent aircraft.

**Please do not delay in registering to avoid civil penalties.**

## **9. Airport security planning No. 1 priority for WSDOT Aviation**

WSDOT Aviation is not resting on its laurels when it comes to making general aviation airports in this state safe from terrorist attacks. Many airports and state and federal agencies, including the Transportation Security Administration, are heralding WSDOT's national leadership in its security program.

Besides providing airport sponsors with Security Guidelines, WSDOT Aviation and its contractor Reid-Middleton, recently completed workshops around the state for airports wanting to improve security at their locations. Now, WSDOT Aviation is offering up to \$5,000 in grant money to airports that develop and adopt security plans but still need financial aid in putting the programs in place.

The grants are to be used for capital security improvements such as signs, lighting, fences and gates, according to Stan Allison, Airport Operations Manager. The purpose of this ongoing initiative is to demonstrate Washington's commitment to maintain a safe general aviation system of airports through best management security practices.

Grant applications can be found on our website at:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/Airports/default.htm>. Grant applications will be accepted through February 2004. For more information about applying for an airport

security grant, contact Allison, (360) 651-6304 or for the development of an airport security plan, contact Tom Peterson, (360) 651-6308.

#### **10. South Lewis County Airport dedicates new runway**



Stan Allison traveled to the South Lewis County Airport in Toledo-Winlock for the dedication of their new runway. The project was funded using \$1.2 million dollars worth of FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funds, \$56,840 worth of WSDOT Local Airport Aid Grant funds and \$75,000 from Lewis County. The project included a full-width pavement overlay, new painting and marking, runway drainage improvements, and runway lighting replacement. The County and Wilder Construction did a fantastic job completing the

project on time and under budget. The pilot community now has a brand new runway to operate off of in South Lewis County!

#### **11. Cub Scouts Learn Flying at Okanogan Legion Airport Okanogan Scouting Project Improves Airport**

Cub Scouts in Pack 60, Den 1 worked towards their Aviation Merit Badge with Den Leader Kathleen Thompson. Beginning in September Thompson taught Scouts how airplanes can fly, what the controls do, and how weather is important to flight. After learning these basic facts, Scouts went to Okanogan Legion Airport on October 8, and actually handled the controls of a real airplane in flight. As their parents watched, Scouts Ryan Thompson, Matthew Danielson, Gregory Sklar, Mason Timm, Dylan Brown and Cody Everett took turns flying with volunteer pilot Kory Lester of Okanogan. Flights were in a fully restored antique four passenger Bellanca airplane.

Each scout learned how to fly level, turn, and maneuver the airplane in a climb and descent. Most also wanted to follow the controls (place their hands on the control wheel) during take off and landing, but some just were too awed by the experience. "That was so cool," Ryan said to his father, Randy Thompson, as he returned to the ground and the door opened for the next of the budding pilots. "Hey that's my house down there," exclaimed one scout.